

Message Text

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ACTION PM-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 L-03 OMB-01 MC-02 EB-11 SS-15

NSC-10 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-12

PRS-01 RSR-01 /105 W

----- 092556

R 031122 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5450

INFO SECDEF

CNO

USCINCEUR

CINCUSNAVEUR

JUSMG/ MAAG MADRID SPAIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 1754

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR MASS SP US

SUBJECT: CORRESPONDENCE ON SHIP LOANS

REFS MADRID 1578 AND 1433

CHIEF, HIGH GENERAL STAFF, GENERAL DIEZ ALEGRIA, HAS RESPONDED TO MY LETTER OF MARCH 13 REGARDING EDITORIAL ON SHIP LOANS THAT APPEARED IN AFTERNOON DAILY INFORMACIONES ON MARCH 5. INFORMAL ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF DIEZ- ALEGRIA LETTER IS AS FOLS:

BEGIN TEXT: MY DEAR AMBASSADOR:

I HAVE RECEIVED YOUR LETTER IN WHICH YOU FORWARDED A PHOTOCOPY OF THE ARTICLE PUBLISHED BY THE DAILY INFORMACIONES OF MARCH 5.

OF COURSE I BELIEVE THAT THE ARTICLE IN QUESTION HAS BEEN DRAFTED BY A PERSON WHO, TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE FREEDOM OF THE PRESS TO EXPRESS HIS OPINIONS, LACKS A DEEP UNDERSTANDING OF THE ESSENCE OF THE AGREEMENT OF COOPERATION. THAT PERSON HAS TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF AN EVENT, WHICH FROM A JOURNALISTIC
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STANDPOINT IS VERY USEFUL, TO ATTACK HISPANO- AMERICAN COOPERATION.

PERSONALLY I CONSIDER THAT A FAVORABLE VIEW OF THE AGREEMENTS IS SHARED BY THOSE OF US WHO ARE AWARE OF THE EFFORT THE UNITED STATES NAVY IS UNDERTAKING TO MEET SPANISH NEEDS. AND I BELIEVE THAT THIS SAME FEELING IS SHARED BY A LARGE PART OF THE OFFICER CORPS OF THE SPANISH ARMED FORCES.

ON THE OTHER HAND, TO CORRECT IT PUBLICLY WOULD ONLY LEAD TO BUILDING UP THE INCIDENT, SINCE THTHANDING. UNDER DIRECTION MALIAN ARMY, TRUCKS WITH ENOUGH GRAIN AND ENOUGH LOADERS ALWAYS AT AIRPORT, AND ON TIME. SAME TRUE OF UNLOADING. PLANES HAD TO PROVIDE ALL SPARE PARTS AND MAINTENANCE, BUT AVIATION GAS SUPPLIES FULLY ADEQUATE. GOOD QUARTERS FOR CREWS AND ACCEPTABLE FOOD OFFERED TO CREWS AT UNOPENED HOTEL DE L' AMITIE IN BAMAKO, BUT SOVIETS TURNED DOWN OFFER.

4. SEVERAL MINISTERS HAVE SPOKEN TO ME WITH DISAPPOINTMENT ABOUT US INABILITY TO PROVIDE PLANE FOR AIRLIFT AND HAVE INDICATED THEY HOPED WE WOULD HELP LATER. THEY POINTED OUT THAT SOVIET AND GERMAN PLANES WILL NOT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO LIFT ENOUGH GRAIN TO SUPPLY REMOVE NORTHERN SECTIONS FIRST, SECOND, FIFTH AND SIXTH REGIONS IN PERIOD BEFORE NAVIGATION ON NIGER POSSIBLE IN AUGUST. MALIANS ALSO LOOKING FOR HELP IN AIRLIFTING PUMPS, ETC., FROM DAKAR AND ABIDJAN . MALIANS APPEAR TO BE FULLY AND EFFICIENTLY USING THEIR OWN RESOURCES AND DESERVE ANY HELP AND ENCOURAGEMENT WE CAN GIVE. GIVEN GROWING GRAVITY OF FOOD AND CATTLE SITUATION AS HOT SEASON INTENSIFIES, I BELIEVE WE SHOULD KEEP OPEN OPTION OF MAKING US PLANES AVAILABLE TO RENDER EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE.

BLAKE

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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